



Bleeding Pinstripes: A Season with the Bleacher Creatures at Yankee Stadium

By Filip Bondy

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Bleeding Pinstripes is a unique, anthropological view of this most dedicated tribe of rooters—their rituals, their personal tribulations, their uncanny commitment to the Bronx ball club and to each other. You will meet an assortment of Bleacher Creatures, characters of a very different sort: Tina Lewis, the self-proclaimed Queen of the Bleachers, a spirited cancer survivor, and the chief lobbyist for Section 39; Donald Simpson, a 9/11 victim and the bleachers' only known millionaire; Milton Ousland, the only bleacher fan authorized to bang the cowbell during Yankee games; Bald Vinny, the ultimate T-shirt entrepreneur and a good-natured hustler who has made a living off his passion; and Luis Castillo, the Yankee clubhouse attendant and the insider who started out as just another Creature in the bleachers.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Filip Bondy is an award-winning sports columnist for the New York Daily News. He has traveled from Doha, Qatar, to Harare, Zimbabwe, while covering some very famous and some extremely obscure sports events. Bondy's reports and humorous diaries have chronicled Wimbledon, the Olympics, the World Cup and camel racing. Closer to home, Bondy created the Bleacher Creature feature that gave a public voice to the boisterous fans in Section 39 at Yankee Stadium. Bondy first worked at The News in 1983, after a decade in news, features and sports with the defunct Paterson News and Bergen Record (he panned "Evita" as a theater critic, predicting it wouldn't last a week). He returned to The News as a columnist in 1993, following a stint at the New York Times. During his eclectic career, he was a beat reporter covering the Yankees, Nets, Knicks, Rangers, Tonya Harding and the national marbles championships. In 2003, his stories were ranked in the top 10 nationally in two different writing categories by the Associated Press Sports Editors. Bondy graduated from the University of Wisconsin and earned a master's at the University of Pennsylvania. This is his fourth sports book, his first on baseball. The "F" in Filip is Czech—his father grew up in Prague. You can call him "Flip," the way they do in the bleachers, and he won't mind. Bondy is married to LynNell Hancock, aka Mrs. Creature, a professor of journalism at Columbia. He has two children and a grandson. Mostly, Bondy wants to play right midfield for Boca Juniors.

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